Export of gold through MMTC.

108. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC) has been dealing with the export of gold;

(b) whether MMTC has introduced a gold jewellary export scheme;

(c) if so, the details of that scheme; and

(d) the steps taken by MMTC in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. MMTC does not export gold.

(b) to (d) MMTC Limited is one of the nominated agencies for supply of gold to the jewellery exporters in the country under various schemes mentioned in Chapter VIII, para 88 of the Export-Import Policy. MMTC provides gold and silver to the exporters and extends packing credit limits to enable its associates to manufacture and export jewellery. The export is carried out on MMTC's Account. The proceeds of the exports are realised by MMTC and after adjusting the packing credit provided and service charges, the balance is remitted to the jewellery manufacturer with a disclaimer certificate under Section 80 HHC of the Income-tax Act.

Dangerous and unsafe coal mines in Bihar

109. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether operation of coal mafia in Jharia, Katras and Chirkunda continuous unabated in collusion with staff of Directorate of Mines Safety;

(b) the number of CBI raids made during the last one year in Dhanbad area and the number of officials of the Directorate arrested in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the staff strength of the Directorate to check operation of coal mafia in the area?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The Director-General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad is responsible for implementation of the provisions contained, among others, in the Mines Act, 1952 with a view to ensuring occupational safety and health of workers in Mines and not to check operation of coal mafia which is primarily the concern of the State Government. During the last one year two raids were made by CBI in which two officials of the Directorate were arrested on corruption charges.

Fresh sugar scandal

110. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had recently brought to the notice of the Prime Minister by writing about the new sugar scandal in the making and sought his intervention as reported in The Hindustan Times of 19th May, 1995; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Consideration of policy issues is not a one time affair but a continuing process involving various levels/Ministries.

Demand to repeal prevention of black marketing and maintenance of supplies of essential Commodities Act, 1980

111. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Trade and Industry Associations have demanded repeal of Essential Commodities Act and the "Prevention of Black-Mar-